

## **The E-1 Transaction Process to Identify a Beneficiary's Part D Plan**

A pharmacy uses the E1 transaction when it needs to know the insurance coverage information for a patient. Pharmacies use basic information about the patient, include it in their real-time system, and submit a real-time eligibility query to the Medicare Part D Facilitator. The Facilitator returns information about each of the insurance companies providing coverage for the patient. This process allows pharmacies to submit real-time transactions to the Facilitator to determine a patient's insurance coverage information.

### **Option 1: Direct to Facilitator**

1. Pharmacy submits the E1 transaction to the Facilitator.
2. The Facilitator uses the E1 Request to match the data contained within the Request to its Eligibility file. The Eligibility file is provided to the Facilitator by CMS and is updated nightly.
3. The Facilitator returns the Response to the Pharmacy.
4. The Pharmacy uses the information contained in the message to create the billing claim for the patient.

### **Option 2: Using a Switch**

1. Pharmacy submits the E1 transaction to the switch that handles its regular billing claims.
2. The Switch forwards the E1 Request to the Facilitator.
3. The Facilitator uses the E1 Request to match the data contained within the Request to its Eligibility file. The Eligibility file is provided to the Facilitator by CMS and is updated nightly.
4. The Facilitator returns the Response to the Switch.
5. The Switch returns the Response to the Pharmacy.
6. The Pharmacy uses the information contained in the message to create the billing claim for the patient.

### **Real-Time Technical Details**

The transaction that is sent to the Facilitator, either directly or through a Switch, follows the NCPDP E1 specification. Specifications can be found at [http://medifacd.ndchealth.com/Pharmacies/MediFacD\\_Pharmacies\\_ProgrammerDetails.htm#E1Specs](http://medifacd.ndchealth.com/Pharmacies/MediFacD_Pharmacies_ProgrammerDetails.htm#E1Specs)

If a pharmacy does not have the ability to determine a beneficiary's Part D Plan through the E1 transaction process, it may contact CMS directly at 866-835-7595.